

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The Listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A damper comprising:

a housing having a cylindrical hollow shape;

a viscous fluid filled in the housing;

a first rotor rotatably retained in the housing for receiving a rotational force from an outside, and having a first connecting portion formed on a side surface extending along an axis of the first rotor at one end portion thereof;

a second rotor rotatably retained in the housing coaxially with the first rotor, and having a second connecting portion formed on a side surface extending along an axis of the second rotor at one end portion thereof for allowing the second rotor to rotate together with the first rotor when the second connecting portion is connected with the first connecting portion, said second connecting portion forming a first space in a peripheral direction between the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion when the second connecting portion is released from the first connecting portion so that the viscous fluid passes through the space; and

an elastic member disposed in the housing for urging the first rotor and the second rotor in ~~[[a]]~~ the peripheral direction to connect with each other, said elastic member accumulating an elastic force when the first and second connecting portions move away from each other.

2. (currently amended) A damper ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a housing having a cylindrical hollow shape;

a viscous fluid filled in the housing;

a first rotor rotatably retained in the housing for receiving a rotational force from an outside, and having a first connecting portion formed at one end portion thereof;

a second rotor rotatably retained in the housing coaxially with the first rotor, and having a second connecting portion formed at one end portion thereof for allowing the second rotor to rotate together with the first rotor when the second connecting portion is connected with the first connecting portion, said second connecting portion forming a first space between the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion when the second connecting portion is released from the first connecting portion so that the viscous fluid passes through the space; and

an elastic member disposed in the housing for urging the first rotor and the second rotor in a direction to connect with each other, said elastic member accumulating an elastic force when the first and second connecting portions move away from each other,

wherein said elastic member is a coil spring having an urging force smaller than a flow resistance of the viscous fluid generated at the first space and a second space between an outer peripheral wall of the second rotor and an inner peripheral surface of the housing when the first rotor is moved away from the second connecting portion, said elastic force of the coil spring as a restoring force being greater than the flow resistance of the viscous fluid generated at the first space and the second space when the first rotor is stopped and the second rotor is rotated by the restoring force of the coil spring.

3. (currently amended) A damper ~~as claimed in claim 1, further~~ comprising:

a housing having a cylindrical hollow shape;

a viscous fluid filled in the housing;

a first rotor rotatably retained in the housing for receiving a rotational force from an outside, and having a first connecting portion formed at one end portion thereof;

a second rotor rotatably retained in the housing coaxially with the first rotor, and having a second connecting portion formed at one end portion thereof for allowing the second rotor to rotate together with the first rotor when the second connecting portion is connected with the first connecting portion, said second connecting portion forming a first space between the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion when the second connecting portion is released from the first connecting portion so that the viscous fluid passes through the space;

an elastic member disposed in the housing for urging the first rotor and the second rotor in a direction to connect with each other, said elastic member accumulating an elastic force when the first and second connecting portions move away from each other; and

a projecting portion projecting from an outer peripheral surface of at least one of the first rotor and the second rotor, said projecting portion having a front-end surface to form a space with respect to an inner peripheral surface of the housing.

4. (original) A damper as claimed in claim 3, wherein said projecting portion includes projections formed symmetrically on the outer peripheral surface of the at least one of the first rotor and the second rotor with respect to a center axis thereof.

5. (original) A damper as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first connecting portion and said second connecting portion include connecting surfaces for connecting together, said connecting surfaces being inclined relative to rotational axes of the first rotor and the second rotor.

6. (original) A damper as claimed in claim 1, wherein said housing further includes walls projecting from an inner peripheral surface thereof for forming two liquid chambers in the housing so that the viscous fluid can pass therethrough, said walls having end portions with a predetermined distance away from outer peripheral surfaces of the first rotor and the second rotor.

7. (original) A damper as claimed in claim 3, wherein said housing includes the inner peripheral surface having concave and convex portions for changing distances between the front-end surface of the projecting portion and the inner peripheral surface.

8. (new) A damper as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first and second rotors are engaged with and disengaged from each other in the peripheral direction without moving in axial directions thereof.